

Lomatium cusickii (S. Wats.) Coulter & Rose

Cusick's desert parsley
Apiaceae (Carrot Family)

Status: State Possibly Extirpated

Rank: G4SX

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): Well-developed plants of *Lomatium cusickii* have a branched persistent woody base from a thick taproot. Mature plants are about 6 to 12 in. (15.25-30 cm) tall. The herbage is glabrous or slightly rough to the touch. The leaves are mainly basal or nearly so, but often one or two arise from stems. The leaves are mostly divided into threes, and then further divided into two or three linear segments that are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. (1-6 cm) long, and up to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (4.5 mm) wide. The inflorescence is an umbel with flowers that are white, yellowish-white or cream-colored to purplish. The rays of the umbel elongate unequally: the longer ones are mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1/2 (1-3 cm) long at maturity. There are bracts (involucels) at the base of the umbels. The involucels are comprised of several narrow bractlets that are generally broadened at the base and often fused together into a narrow basal rim or collar; or the tips of the bractlets are reduced so that the involucel is represented by a collar with one or more short teeth. The flower stalks that give rise to the umbels are short and stout, and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (1-5 mm) long at maturity. The fruit is glabrous or nearly so, narrowly elliptic, and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (7-15 mm) long; the wings are about half as wide to fully as wide as the body.

Identification Tips: Within its range in Washington, *Lomatium cusickii* may be confused with *L. farinosum*. *L. cusickii* is 6 to 12 in. (15.25-30 cm) tall at maturity, and the inflorescence is not compact while flowering, while *L. farinosum* is 6 to 20 in. (15.25-50.8 cm) tall at maturity, and the inflorescence is compact during its flowering period. *L. cusickii* arises from a branched caudex, while *L. farinosum* arises from an unbranched caudex. A technical key is recommended for identification.

Phenology: In Washington this species was observed in flower in April.

Range: The species occurs in northeastern Oregon (where it is also rare), Idaho and Montana. In Washington it was historically known from Asotin County.

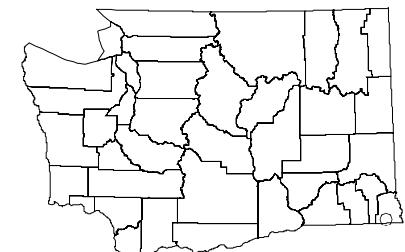
Lomatium cusickii

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Known distribution
of *Lomatium cusickii*
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Habitat: In Washington it was found on a southern slope of an open rocky hillside above the Grande Ronde River. In Oregon it has been found at 8858 feet (2700 m) elevation. Associated species have not been documented.

Ecology: The species is typically found in rocky open places to wooded places at moderate to high elevations in the mountains (Hitchcock et al. 1961).

State Status Comments: In Washington this species is known from only one historical occurrence in Asotin County from April 1949. No individuals have been seen in Washington since.

Inventory Needs: Wooded or open rocky places in Asotin County should be surveyed for possible individuals.

Threats and Management Concerns: The threats to this species are unknown.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson.
1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3:
Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press,
Seattle, WA. 614 pp.

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